

Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014

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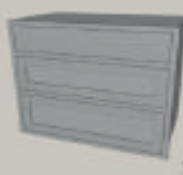
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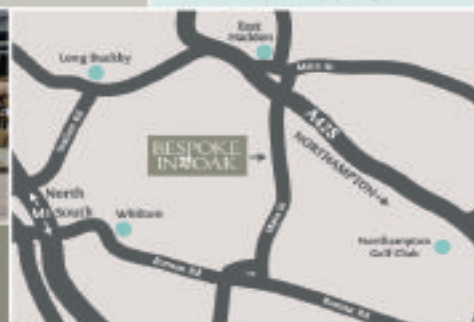
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WARNING ON NUMBER OF ABANDONED ANIMALS

COUNTY FARES BADLY IN SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE RSPCA

Northamptonshire is 10th in the nationwide list for the number of animals being abandoned by owners, according to new statistics released by the RSPCA.

The figures showed that 848 pets were abandoned between January 1 and October 1 this year, with the charity warning that as the winter weather approaches, the risk to animals is even greater.

Nationally in 2014, the RSPCA has been called out to deal with 29,770 reports of abandoned animals so far in England and Wales.

In the Midlands region, the West Midlands had the most abandonments, with 1,428 pets between January 1 and October 1. It came fourth on a national league table of abandonments, with London and northern counties taking the top spots, including Greater Manchester with 1,528 (sec-

ond) and South Yorkshire 1,026 (sixth).

"There are thousands of people out there who don't care about their pets at all. In fact, some literally treat them like rubbish," said RSPCA Midlands superintendent Kelly Rivers. "Worse still, holidays like Christmas can lead to an increase in abandonments as some people choose to get rid of their pets rather than pay for them to be looked after while they are on holiday.

"It's bad enough when we find a box of kittens wrapped in blankets on our doorstep, but now people are deliberately dumping their animals in out-of-the-way places - like bins, skips or on wasteground - and leaving them to an unknown fate."

The charity is expecting around 140,000 calls in November and December alone, with around 50,000 animals needing help between now and Christmas.



The RSPCA is predicting that 50,000 animals will need their attention between now and Christmas in the UK



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Autumn leaves you with Back Pain

Every year over 200,000 people end up in A&E after injuring themselves doing gardening and DIY, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Gardening injuries include sprained joints and muscles, bone fractures and injuries due to overuse, such as repetitive strain injury or tendonitis.

A new poll has put raking leaves as the most hated gardening chore!

What makes raking (and hoeing) potentially harmful is that both actions make the body work in a one-sided way, putting more strain on one side of the body.

To prevent injuring your back while raking:

- * Dress warmly and comfortably.
- * Warm up, as you would for any exercise.
- * Switch sides every few minutes to distribute the workload across your body, avoiding fatigue or strain on one side of your body.
- * Don't rotate the body while raking, as this can aggravate the back and bring on low back pain. Instead, face your leaves and rake towards you.
- * Don't over-reach because this may cause more stress on your lower back muscles. Instead move closer to the leaves and use short movements.
- * Keep your upper arms close to your body.



- * Pull the rake using movement from your legs (not just your arms) and step back as you rake.
- * Take regular breaks by resting or switching to another type of activity.

Chiropractic care is very effective in treating common gardening injuries such as **lower back pain, upper back pain, neck pain, knee pain and shoulder pain**. So if you have any aches and pains associated with gardening, **call your local ISIS Chiropractic Clinic to make an appointment!**



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M20



NEW VIEW: An artist's impressions of how the new Barrack Road schools' site would look

Two new schools set to be approved on old mail site

Plans to build a new 1,500-place secondary school and 420-place primary school on the site of a former Royal Mail sorting office in Northampton are set to be approved next week.

Northamptonshire County Council has submitted an application to convert the large, disused building in Barrack Road into two schools to help provide extra places for pupils near the town centre.

Members of the county council's development control committee are due to discuss the plans – which include seven houses, a private nursery, cafe, gym and floodlit outdoor sports area – at a meeting next Wednesday.

A report prepared by council officer Peter Moor ahead of the meeting states the new schools were needed to cope with the rising demand for pupil places in Northampton due to an increased birth rate, immigration and new

housing developments.

Since 2010 there have been extensions completed at 20 primary schools across the town, adding more than 3,300 new pupil places.

The council is currently predicted to be short of 148 secondary school places in 2016.

The county council held a public consultation about the plans in July and only received four letters of objection.

The main issue was about possible traffic problems arising in Barrack Road as a result of the increased vehicle movements at school opening and closing times.

Councillor Sarah Uldall (*Lib Dem, St George*) said she fully supported the plans but said that local residents were "very concerned about the highways aspect of the plans".

She said: "I am not a traffic expert, but I would ask that the highways department at County Hall takes into account congestion, and try to

find ways to encourage more walking and cycling."

It is proposed that the secondary school – which would include a 300-place sixth form – and the primary

school would be sponsored academies. The David Ross Education Trust and the EM-LC Academy Trust have both submitted bids to run the schools.

Extra school traffic 'not as much as Tesco store'

■ A transport assessment carried out by the county council found the proposed two new schools would have a "smaller" impact on Barrack Road than previous plans to build a Tesco store on the site that were approved two years ago.

■ As part of the plans, the county council is also planning to introduce a new signal-controlled junction at the entrance to the site and encourage pupils to walk, cy-

cle and catch a bus to school.

■ It is predicted that in the first year of the schools' opening – scheduled for 2016 – there would be 317 arrivals and 187 departures in the morning and 144 arrivals and 203 departures in the afternoon.

■ Northampton Borough Council has also asked for further clarity about proposed plans to use part of The Racecourse for additional sports provision.

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Alcohol issues

The number of people in Northamptonshire admitted to hospital or dying due to alcohol abuse is more than double the East Midlands average.

And a report released by the Alcohol Concern charity, shows the cost per year of hospital stays for high blood pressure caused by excess drinking was more than twice the regional average at £7.4 million.

Alcohol Concern chief executive, Jackie Ballard, said: "The NHS is now facing an intolerable strain from alcohol-related illnesses. This is not just from readily-identifiable causes such as A&E visits and admissions for liver disease, but from a significant number of other conditions in which alcohol plays a major, but often under-appreciated, part."

The figures took in the entire county except for the Corby area – which has its own NHS body – during 2012/2013.

Northamptonshire had 96,887 drink-related hospital admissions in 12 months (57 per cent through A&E), compared with the regional average



HEALTH ISSUES The cost to the NHS of people being admitted to hospital with alcohol related illnesses in Northamptonshire is £7.4 million. The figure is twice the national average for the rest of the East Midlands.

of 45,335. Almost two-thirds of the inpatients were men and 45 per cent were aged between 55 and 74.

People dying of alcohol-related causes totalled 254 versus an East Midlands average of 107.

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■ Commenting on the significance for the NHS of drink-related issues, Dr Carsten Grimm said: "It is vital that people understand the full consequences that drinking at unsafe levels can have on their health."

"Drinking alcohol above recommended levels can have a damaging impact upon almost every part of our body, and it is crucial that national and local organisations work together to address this harm."

The figures cover the period just after £1.15 million had been pumped into Northamptonshire alcohol services by the NHS, following the county being 'red flagged' for alcohol harm in 2009.

At the time, the investment had succeeded in reducing the rate of increase in alcohol-related hospital stays from 17 per cent to four per cent. Since then, NHS Nene has started schemes to identify alcoholics earlier, including spotting mental health issues at A&E, and helping keep them from repeated hospital visits.

Just under a quarter were from chronic liver disease.

Alcohol Harm is calling for urgent action to prevent alco-

hol misuse, particularly a minimum unit price, which it said would save millions of pounds and people's lives.

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Email your news and views to editor@northantsnews.co.uk

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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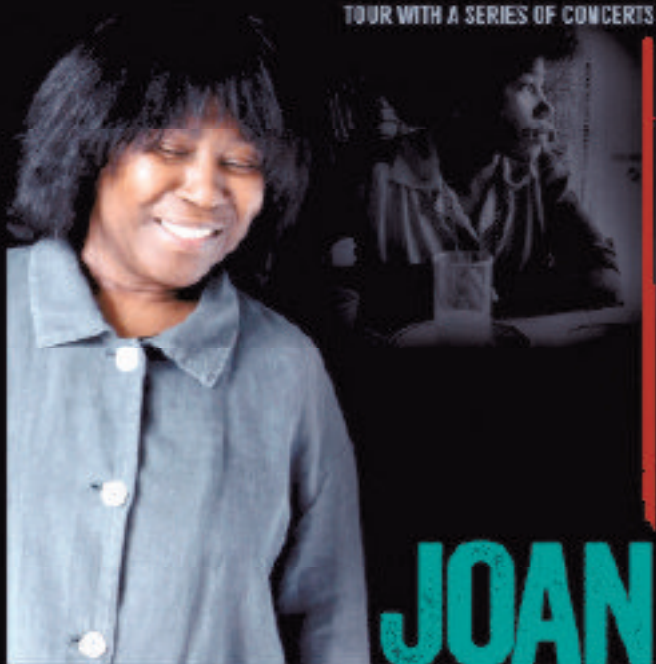
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Thieves strip parts from steamroller

A much-loved steamroller may never run again after thieves carried out a 'military style' theft of its parts from a field in Northamptonshire.

Gulliver, an Aveling and Porter steamroller, was undergoing repair in a secure building at Welton, near Daventry, when it was targeted by thieves.

Gulliver's heartbroken owner, David Viewing, said: "In a stunningly brazen military style attack, a highly-organised gang drove across open fields and broke through closed gateways to reach the engine's home in a secure building. They then spent a considerable time loading up a huge quantity of tools and equipment before escaping."

The theft included most of the boiler fittings and brass-work from Gulliver.

Mr Viewing continued: "The loss of these parts is a terrible blow to the project to restore Gulliver to working order. The engine has been

**HEARTBREAKING RAID:** Thieves targeted this historic steamroller.

out of commission for firebox repairs and the missing components were neatly stacked awaiting re-installation.

"We were clearly naive to believe that our secluded location and secure building gave

us the protection of privacy and we were caught completely unawares by the thieves' route onto the property."

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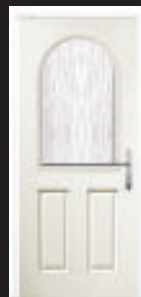
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NEW RESTRICTIONS: Double yellow lines have been put in place outside the Boston Clipper in the town centre.

Restrictions mean trouble for club staff

A Northampton nightclub has been left with parking issues after the county council painted double yellow lines on the street outside.

Staff at The Boston Clipper, on the corner of King Street and College Street in the town centre, have been left without a place to park their cars after parking was restricted without warning all along King Street, they said.

Owner of the club, David Randle, of The Castle Freehouse Group, complained when the lines were painted and claimed he was told by Northamptonshire County Council that they had been painted "in error".

However, the council has since confirmed the restriction was made under a "temporary traffic order".

Mr Randle said: "We have owned The Boston Clipper for 10 years and there has never been a need for double yellow lines.

"Before, there was a single line on both sides of King Street to restrict parking between 8am and 6pm, but this

was fine as we are a late-night venue and we parked on the street outside those hours.

"Last weekend was the first since the lines were officially enforced and it was used all night by taxis, so it was just as busy as before.

"Parking in King Street was used not only by bar staff and suppliers, but musicians with heavy kit and door staff who are often called out to security emergencies at other venues in town.

"They all now have to pay for parking further away and

this will have a huge impact on our business."

"We have appealed against this decision but have had no response.

"In the meantime, one of our staff has been fined for parking in King Street during the period when we were to understand the restriction was a mistake.

"I can't understand who is meant to benefit from the restriction outside 8am-6pm.

"The council put in the lines before consulting and that is contrary to their rules."

Consultation before lines

■ A spokesman for Northamptonshire County Council said: "In order to facilitate better traffic flow around this area of town, a series of measures has been implemented. Vehicles parking in King Street were impeding access to the Park Inn hotel and, as such, a temporary traffic regulation order (TRO) was brought in

to introduce double-yellow lines in the road, prohibiting parking. A consultation has this week been carried out as to whether the double yellow lines should be made permanent and the results are now being assessed. "This change both allows and includes re-introducing access to the Park Inn hotel on to the A508," he added.

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Motorists avoid ban from driving despite 23 points

By KATE CRONIN
Reporter
kate.cronin@jpress.co.uk

Motorists with up to 23 points on their driving licences have been allowed to keep on driving by Northamptonshire courts.

One 43-year-old from Wellingborough with 23 points on his licence is still driving, despite the legal limit for a driving ban being 12 points.

A man aged 45 from Kettering is also still on the roads with 20 points on his licence and a 26-year-old man, also from Kettering, is still driving with 19 points.

The figures were revealed following a request to the DVLA for the release of the statistics under the Freedom of Information Act.

Normally, there would be an automatic driving ban under totting-up rules when a driver reaches 12 points on



Some speeding drivers kept their licence to avoid 'exceptional hardship'.

their licence.

But the offender can go to court to try to persuade magistrates that they would face exceptional hardship if they faced a driving ban.

The latest offence from the driver with the most points in the north of the county – the man from Wellingborough with 23 points – was a speeding offence in a 30mph area which carries a penalty of three to six points.

This means that he must have already had at least 17 points on his licence when he persuaded the court not to

ban him.

No further details on his identity were released by the DVLA. There was only one female in the top 10 list – a woman from Northampton with 18 points on her licence.

There was no-one from Corby or East Northamptonshire on the list.

Micaela Williams, head of employment at Seatons solicitors, which has branches across north Northamptonshire, said: "Exceptional hardship is ordinarily exceptionally hard to prove. Defendants need to show

more than just the normal consequences that flow from the ban like loss of employment. In reality the courts are more interested in how the driver's ban would affect others.

"Having committed the offence the driver is the one that needs to be punished and suffer the consequences of his own actions.

"However, the ripple effect of the ban on others who have no culpability at all bears heavily on the mind of the court.

"For example, if by a ban the driver would lose significant business and others would lose their job then this may amount to exceptional hardship.

"Additionally, the impact of a driving ban on elderly relatives and children will be an important consideration.

"As a note of caution whatever exceptional reason advanced and accepted by the court cannot be used again for another three years."

Caught but they are still on the road...

23 POINTS

Man, 46, from Wellingborough. Latest offence was for speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

20 POINTS

Man, 45, from Kettering. Latest offence was for speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

19 POINTS

Man, 26, from Kettering. Latest offence was for driving without insurance which carries a penalty of 6 to 8 points.

18 POINTS

Man, 52, from Northampton. Latest offence was for driving without insurance and while disqualified. Together, they carry a penalty of 12 to 14 points.

18 POINTS

Woman, 47, from Northampton. Latest offence was for driving without insurance which carries a penalty of 6 to 8 points.

18 POINTS

Man, 37, from Northampton. Latest offence was for driving without insurance and otherwise than in accordance with a licence. Together, carry a penalty of 9 to 14 points.

16 POINTS

Man, 25, from Wellingborough. Latest offence was for speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

15 POINTS

Man, 25, from Kettering. Latest offence was for speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

15 POINTS

Man, 55, from Northampton. Latest offence was for speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

15 POINTS

Man, 41, from Kettering. Latest offence was speeding in a 30mph zone which carries a penalty of 3 to 6 points.

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Reader
Travel

Overflowing bin removed after rise in fly-tipping

A residents' association that complained to Northampton Borough Council about excess litter and fly-tipping has been left puzzled after the local authority removed the only bin on their road.

The bin was installed in St Edmund's Road in the spring because residents were frustrated by rubbish dropped in the streets.



LITTER ISSUE: Residents in St Edmund's Road successfully campaigned for a bin but because it regularly overflowed, the borough council removed it.

People did use the bin and it was regularly full but, because fly-tippers also started to use the immediate area as a dumping spot, the council removed it again in August.

Chairman of the St Edmund's group, Anne Wishart, said having no bin at all was not the solution.

"We campaigned long and hard to have the bin put in as there were none on St Edmunds Road and this was causing a big rubbish problem.

"The bin was used, but it quickly started to overflow and I saw it being removed only a couple of months later. I

asked the warden on duty and he said it was because the rubbish had been attracting street drinkers.

"But I don't think that is fair as those people can hardly be blamed for fly-tipping mattresses, fridges and ironing-boards. Blaming street drinkers is just an excuse."

■ NBC's cabinet member for environment, Mike Hallam, said: "We take a zero tolerance approach to

fly-tipping in Northampton and will take legal action against anyone we catch.

"Earlier this year we identified an area on St Edmunds Road where people felt it was fine to dump their unwanted items as the taxpayer would pick up the bill. We have taken action to make it clear this is not acceptable and not encouraged.

This irresponsible behaviour brings down the neighbourhood."

SEND TO US @ Email your views to letters@northantsnews.co.uk



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Open Half Term Week
25th October to 2nd November 2014
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www.woburnabbey.co.uk/events

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Meet Peppa Pig
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Tiger Charity Event
Sunday 2nd November
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Surprise special guests will be making an appearance at the park on the 2nd November.

FREE Guidebook or Tiger Trail for kids with every single ticket purchased online or at the gate.

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Read all about the calf's first weeks in her new home; bonding with mum and exploring her paddocks.



www.woburnsafari.co.uk/events

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northamptonchron.co.uk/motors

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Northampton

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He's honest enough to admit the two cars share rather a lot of the bits you can't see, but the 108 does look a more sophisticated take on minimal motoring than the 107.

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23/10/2014



Women seeking men

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Men seeking women

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Women seeking women

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Men seeking men

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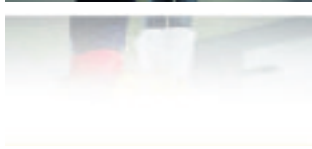
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SPORT

Saints will come out fighting

Wood urges team-mates to bounce back quickly against Ospreys

RUGBY

Tom Wood admits Saturday's defeat at Racing Metro felt 'like the end of the world' - but has urged his team-mates to bounce back quickly by beating Ospreys this weekend.

Saints suffered a gut-wrenching 20-11 reverse against Pool 5 rivals Racing at Stade Yves du Manoir, with a late try and conversion costing them the consolation of a losing bonus point.

That put the Top 14 giants in the ascendancy in the bid to progress, with Ospreys, who thrashed Treviso 42-7, also enjoying an opening-day victory.

Saints now know they must see off the Welsh side at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday - and Wood expects his team to come out fighting.

"We said in the dressing room that it felt like the end of the world because we came away from home, put a lot of effort in and come away with nothing," said the England star.

"But we've got to dust ourselves down and if we can pick up wins and potentially bonus points at times, we're still in the competition.

"We've got to win that next five games and give ourselves a chance. We're not going to lie down, but we've given our-

selves a mountain to climb.

"It would have been nice to come away on opening day and win on French soil, but we'll have to do it the hard way now and we'll be doing our best to try to do that."

Saints' disappointment at the Racing defeat was compounded by a hamstring injury to George Pisi, who hit the ground after dropping the ball when heading for the line.

It was a harsh blow for the Samoan centre and his side, but Wood does not feel that incident, which occurred with Saints 10-6 down, was the key reason for the defeat.

"As soon as George gets that ball in his hands you expect him to score every time and it's cruel luck, but we still had time on the clock to go and win that game," he said.

"We still did a lot of things well, but to some extent it's a different sport in this competition. Playing away from home, in France, it's a completely different approach to the game.

"In all honesty, I don't know what we could have done differently at match time.

"There were some things going on that you can't account for and if you try to police yourself you end in the sin bin yourself.

"I don't know what the answer is, but you keep going and keep hoping for the best."



HITTING BACK Tom Wood says Saints' defeat to Racing Metro felt 'like the end of the world'

Hartley: We must step it up

SKIPPER Dylan Hartley has urged Northampton Saints to 'step it up' as they bid to put Saturday's Champions Cup disappointment behind them.

Jim Mallinder's men suffered a 20-11 defeat to Racing Metro in the Pool 5 curtain-

raiser in Colombes. And Hartley is now desperate to ensure similar disappointment is avoided this Saturday, when Ospreys head to Franklin's Gardens for a crucial clash.

"We went from chasing the game, to being able to draw

the game and then to a point where we had a losing bonus point and then it was all taken away from us," said the Saints skipper of the defeat to Racing.

"We're just going to have to step it up and get points elsewhere now."

Wilder says injury problems are 'freaky'

CHRIS Wilder has described the Cobblers' injury list as 'freaky' after centre-back Lee Collins became the latest player to be ruled out of first-team action.

Collins did not travel with the squad to Cheltenham Town on Saturday after suffering a trapped nerve in his foot, with his place in the side taken by Gregor Robert-

FOOTBALL

son for the 3-2 defeat.

It means the number of players missing has again risen to six - Collins, Zander Diamond (ankle), Marc Richards (hamstring), Ian Morris (knee), Evan Horwood and Lewis Hornby (both tendinitis).

The high injury count has

been a major talking point this season and Wilder was almost lost for words when asked about the latest fitness setback for his squad.

"I'm just at a loss," he said. "We've talked about it and it's freaky at the moment, it's just freaky.

"You look at the injuries and where they've happened and what has happened to

the players involved and it's just far too many.

"I've never wanted to run with a squad of 27 or 28, we want continuity and a tight group because we feel that's the only way you can get a bit of rhythm.

"I would never use it as an excuse but we have got good players sat at home and now my skipper is there as well.

When those players are not available it does weaken us."

Meanwhile, Cobblers assistant manager Alan Knill has confirmed the club did not make any approach for Oxford United players during the summer.

There were tenuous links between Town and Oxford centre-back Jake Wright in the transfer window.

But Chris Wilder did not return to his former employers to recruit any players, and Knill said they achieved all of their planned signings during that time.

"I don't think (any of them were targets)," he said.

"The players we signed in the summer were all our number one targets and we were pleased with who we got."

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